

News from the FPPC



California Fair Political Practices Commission
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FPPC Enforcement Decisions: February 10, 2011

The following are enforcement decisions approved by the Fair Political Practices Commission at its regular monthly meeting held in Sacramento on Thursday, February 10, 2011. Decisions are listed by category and include a brief summary of each case and the total amount of any administrative fine or fines in each case.

Additional information on each of the enforcement cases below can be found in the February agenda on the FPPC website at www.fppc.ca.gov. FPPC agendas are distributed and posted on the agency website 10 days prior to each monthly meeting.

The web version of the agenda includes links to the stipulations agreed to by the commission and by the individuals and organizations subject to the fines, or the default decisions proposed to the commission. Exhibits in support of the stipulations and proposed default decisions are also available on the website. If you are unable to access the FPPC website, or need further assistance, please call the FPPC communications office at (916) 322-7761.

Campaign Reporting Violations

Arturo Chacon and Art Chacon for Water Board 2010, a successful candidate for the Central Basin Municipal Water District Board of Directors in the election that was held on November 7, 2006, and his controlled committee: (i) failed to file pre-election statements by required deadlines; (ii) failed to report contributions received; (iii) failed to report expenditures made; (iv) failed to report late contributions received; (v) failed to maintain required, supporting records regarding contributions received and expenditures made; (vi) accepted cash contributions of \$100 or more; and (vii) made cash expenditures of \$100 or more. **\$30,000 fine.**

Mike Briggs, and Mike Briggs for City Council 2010. In the June 8, 2010, primary election, Mike Briggs was one of two qualifying candidates for the Fresno City Council, District 3, and he was the unsuccessful candidate in the run-off election in the November 2, 2010, general election for the same seat. Mike Briggs for City Council 2010 was his controlled committee. At all relevant times, Mike Briggs was the treasurer for the committee. He failed to file a pre-election campaign statement by the March 22, 2010, due date, for the reporting period of January 1 to March 17, 2010; failed to disclose the street address, occupation and/or employer information for 11 contributors who contributed \$100 or more, as reported in the pre-election campaign statement for the reporting period ending May 22, 2010; and failed to file a late contribution report within 24 hours of receiving a late contribution on May 26, 2010, totaling \$1,000, by the applicable due date. **\$9,500 fine.**

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Manuel "Manny" Cosme and Cosme for Assembly 2008. Assembly Candidate Manuel "Manny" Cosme, his controlled committee, Cosme for Assembly 2008, and Manuel "Manny" Cosme as the committee's treasurer, failed to timely file a semi-annual campaign report. **\$200 fine.**

Goleta PAC and James J. Knight. Goleta PAC, a general purpose committee, and the committee's treasurer, James J. Knight, failed to timely file a semiannual report. **\$200 fine.**

Conflicts of Interest Violation

California law states that, absent an exception, a public official may not make, participate in making or in any way attempt to use his or her official position to influence a governmental decision in which he or she knows or has reason to know he or she has a financial interest. The following official participated in a governmental decision in which he had a financial interest:

Michael Allen, as a planning commissioner for the City of Santa Rosa, violated the Political Reform Act by failing to disqualify himself from two governmental decisions in which he had a financial interest. **\$3,000 fine.**

Statements of Economic Interests Violations

California law requires elected officials, certain board members and governmental employees, and consultants employed by governmental entities to complete and file Statements of Economic Interests (SEIs or Form 700s). SEIs serve a dual purpose: they make a filer aware of personal economic interests relative to a governmental decision, and they are an important disclosure document for the public and media.

The following individuals failed to file their Statement of Economic Interests forms on time:

Liz Lease, a member of the County of Sonoma Community Services and Environment Commission, failed to timely file her 2009 annual Statement of Economic Interests. **\$200 fine.**

Atanacio Martin, an alternate member of the California Walnut Commission, failed to timely file his assuming office Statement of Economic Interests. **\$200 fine.**

Joseph Phillips, a board member of the California African American Museum, failed to timely file a 2008 annual Statement of Economic Interests. **\$200 fine.**

Armin Wolski, a member of the Board of Examiners for the City and County of San Francisco's Department of Building Inspection, failed to timely file a 2009 annual Statement of Economic Interests. **\$200 fine.**

The following individuals failed to include all economic interests that were required to be disclosed in a Statement of Economic Interests:

Tatsuya Suda, Professor of Computer Science and a principal investigator with the University of California, Irvine, failed to disclose on the Statement of Economic Interests he filed in conjunction with an application for a research project, his interests in a non-governmental funding source that provided grants for his projects. **\$14,000 fine.**

Cary Marlow, a senior building inspector and designated employee of the City of Burbank, failed to timely disclose reportable interests in a business entity on his 2007 annual Statement of Economic Interests. **\$400 fine.**